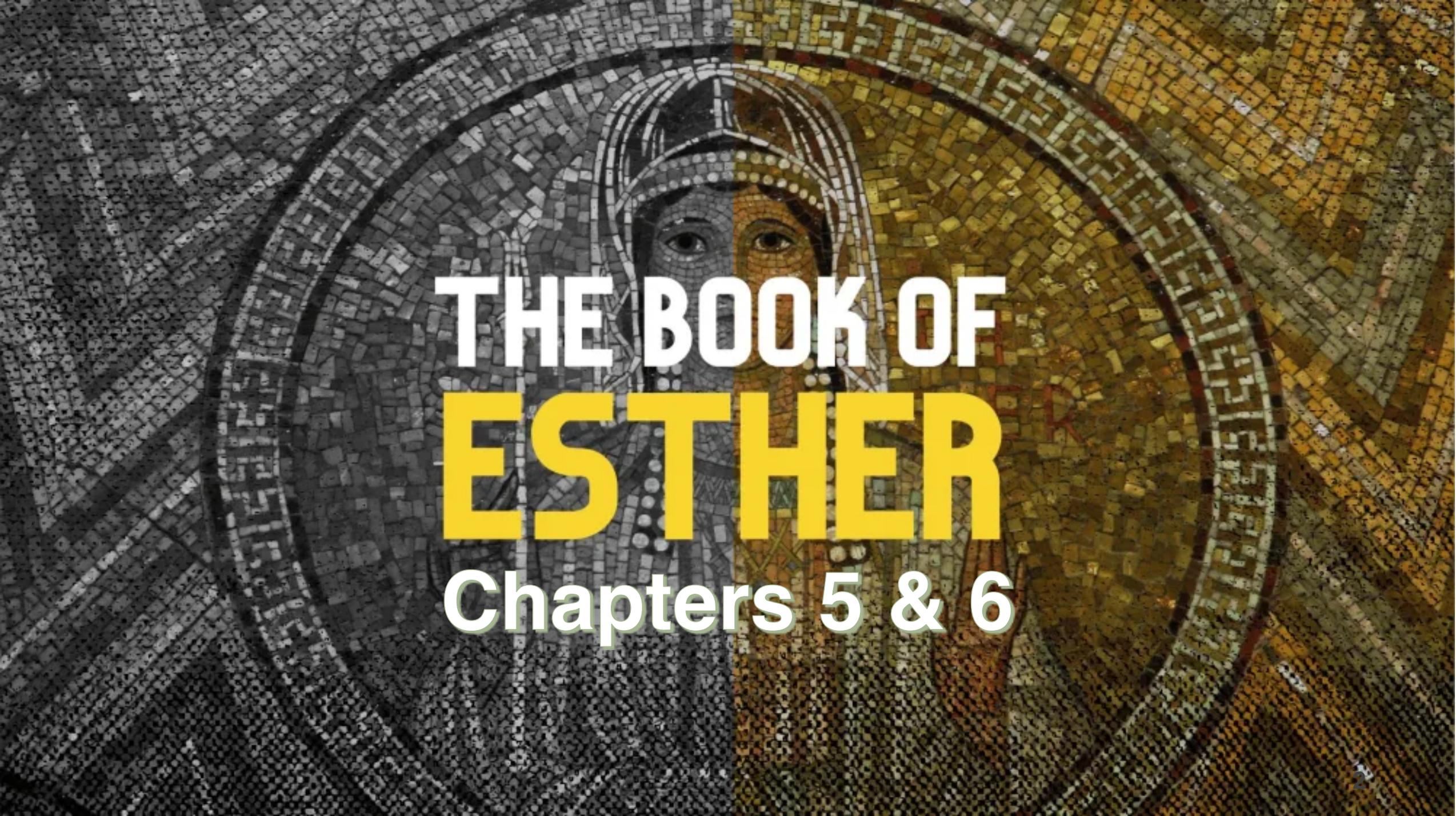


ESTHER

Dan Schuch

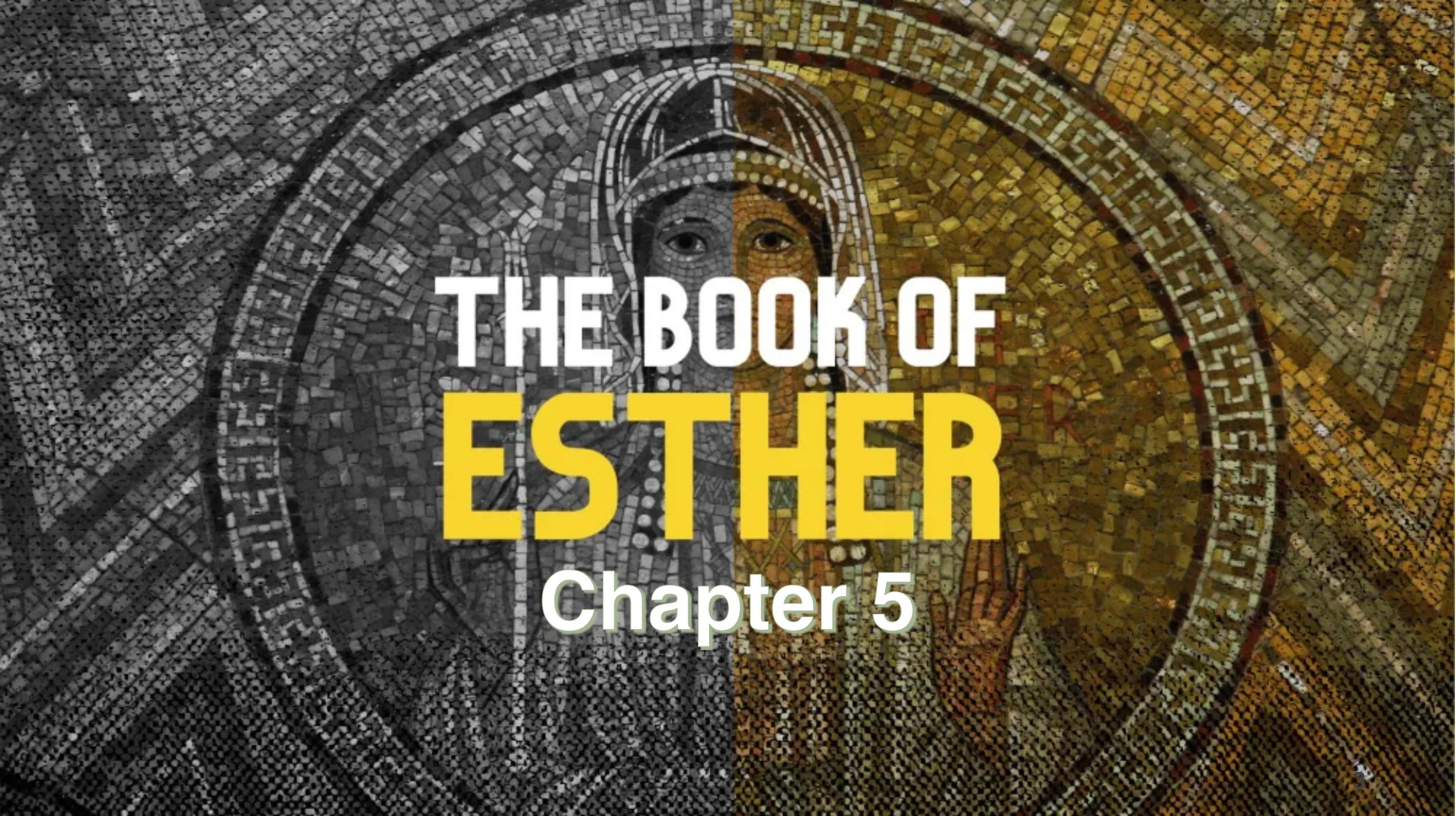
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**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapters 5 & 6



**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapter 5

Esther's Request to the King

¹On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. ²When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.



3Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.”

4“If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”

5“Bring Haman at once,” the king said, “so that we may do what Esther asks.”



Esther and Ahasuerus
Geldorp Gortzius
(Leuven 1553 – ca. 1619
Cologne)

So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. ⁶As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, “Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”



⁷Esther replied, “My petition and my request is this: ⁸If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king’s question.”



Esther and Ahasuerus
Geldorp Gortzius
(Leuven 1553 – ca. 1619
Cologne)

Haman's Rage Against Mordecai

⁹Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

¹⁰Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home. Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife,



Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-1669). Dutch painter. Haman Recognizes his Fate, 1660-1665. The State Hermitage Museum. Saint Petersburg. Russia.

¹¹Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. ¹²“And that’s not all,” Haman added. “I’m the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow. ¹³But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king’s gate.”



14His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself.” This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the pole set up.





**KEEP
CALM
AND
START
DIGGING!**

**in
this
chapter**



How brave was Esther.

If a person was not invited to a meeting with the king and showed up the person would be killed if the king did not point the gold scepter at him.

So what did the king do?

Why do you think the king did it?



The king offered Esther up to half of his kingdom.

Why do you think the king did this?

What was Esther's request?



So the King and Haman went to the banquet. Once again, the King offered Esther up to half of his kingdom.

What was Esther's request?



Haman went home very happy until something happened. What was it?

What was Haman's attitude when he saw Mordecai?



Based on verses 11 and 12, how would you describe Haman?

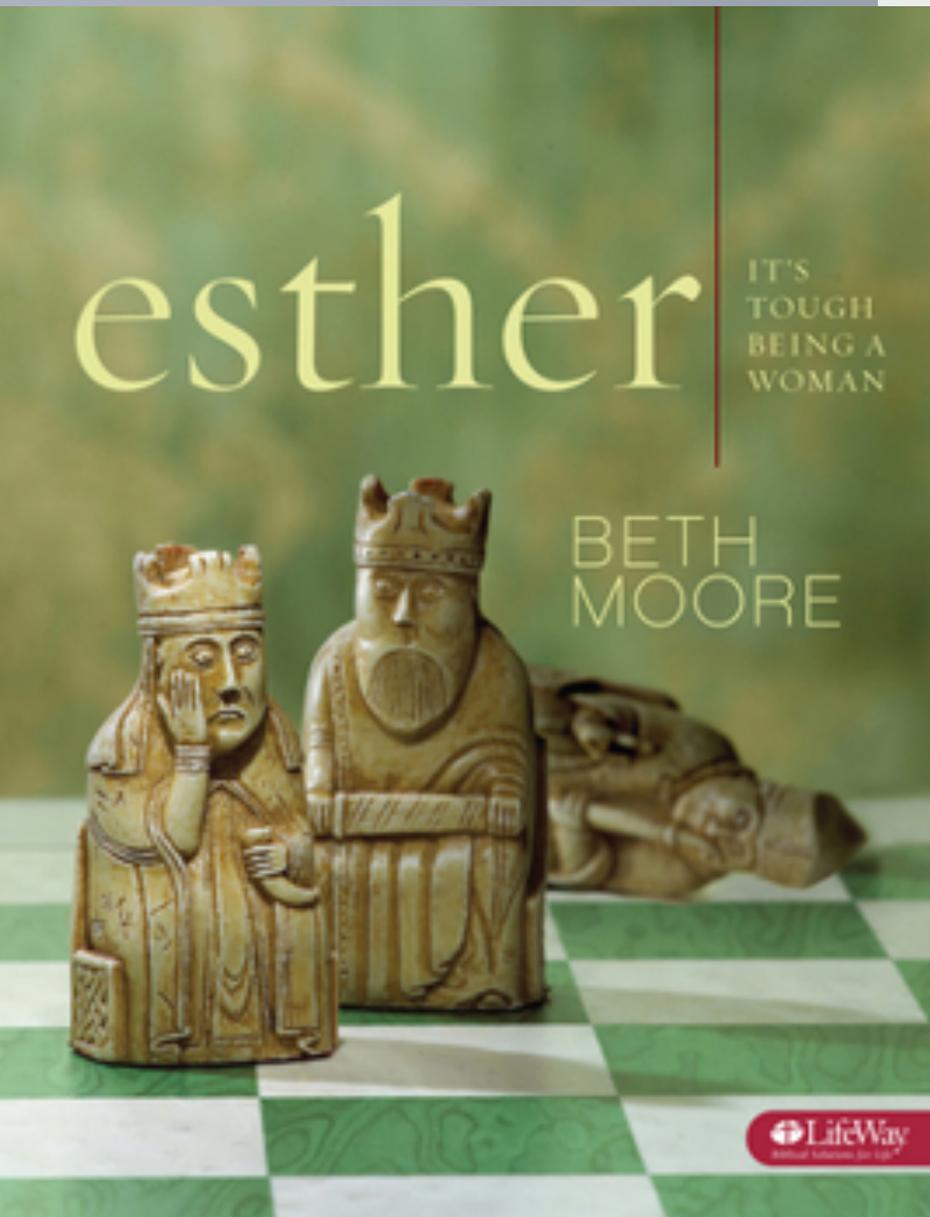


A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER

*Profiles in Character from*CHARLES R.
SWINDOLL

For three days Esther has waited on the Lord. Now it is time to test her eagle's wings. During times of prayer, fasting, and waiting, God prepares not only our hearts but the hearts of those with whom we could have conflict - even those who might be unpredictable or hostile. See how softened the King's heart is toward Esther. In verse 2, "she obtained favor in his sight".



Esther was now in the driver seat. She took responsibility, but she also took the reins. After three days of spiritual and mental preparation, she got prepared physically. Make no mistake. Esther's full intent was to dress for success. "Esther had no intention of being what Daisy Buchanan called "a pretty Little fool".

THE NIV

ESTHER

APPLICATION COMMENTARY



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

Esther's decision put her life at great risk. Yet it is also that very decision that gave her the strength and courage to face the risk of going to the king uninvited.

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER

*Profiles in Character from*

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

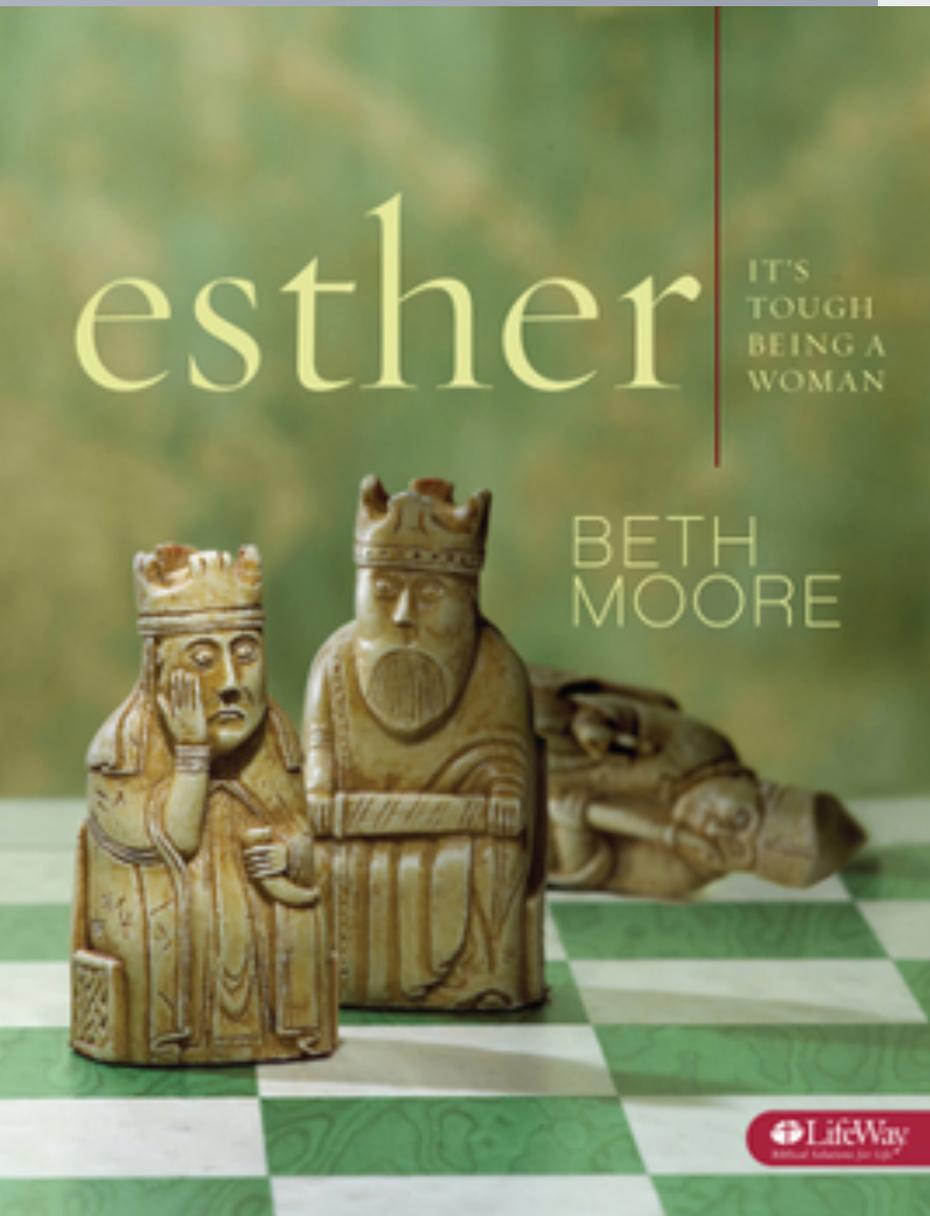
Notice Esther's self-control. She doesn't spill out what's troubling her. She doesn't point a finger at Hayman and ask for his head. She doesn't play on the King's emotions and manipulate him into action. She doesn't get into a frenzy or act in haste. Instead, she restrains herself and stays with her prayed-over plan: issuing the king an invitation.

Esther & Ruth

REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

IAIN M. DUGUID

Haman is a case study in which what happens in our hearts when our idols are challenged. He had made public recognition his idol, and the result was that as long as he was receiving adulation he felt great. However, when the achievement of his goal was challenged, he responded by lashing out in rage and seeking to feed his idol through boasting. Even though he still possessed unparalleled power in the Kingdom, that wasn't enough. There was a void at the center of his life that no amount of success could fill.



I'm a huge proponent of praying against what we fear and for the desires of our hearts. I also believe we're free and safe to voice our worst nightmares to God. In times of crisis and demonic attack, however, our vulnerable souls need something more. The most critical breakthrough of faith you and I could ever experience is to let God bring us to a place where we trust him - period.

THE NIV

ESTHER

APPLICATION
COMMENTARY



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

In chapter 4, Esther's decision to identify herself with God's people was compared to coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Each of us comes to defining moments when we must decide whether to continue to live as pagans or to take our stand with God's covenant people in Christ.

THE NIV

ESTHER

APPLICATION
COMMENTARY



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

In the original decision of “conversion” to Jesus Christ and in all subsequent decisions, we become the women or men God has created us to be by aligning ourselves with his covenant in Christ. As Paul wrote in Galatians, that covenant issues in the life-changing work of the Holy Spirit within us. Like Esther, we too need a transformation of our character so that we may no longer live as pagans.

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER

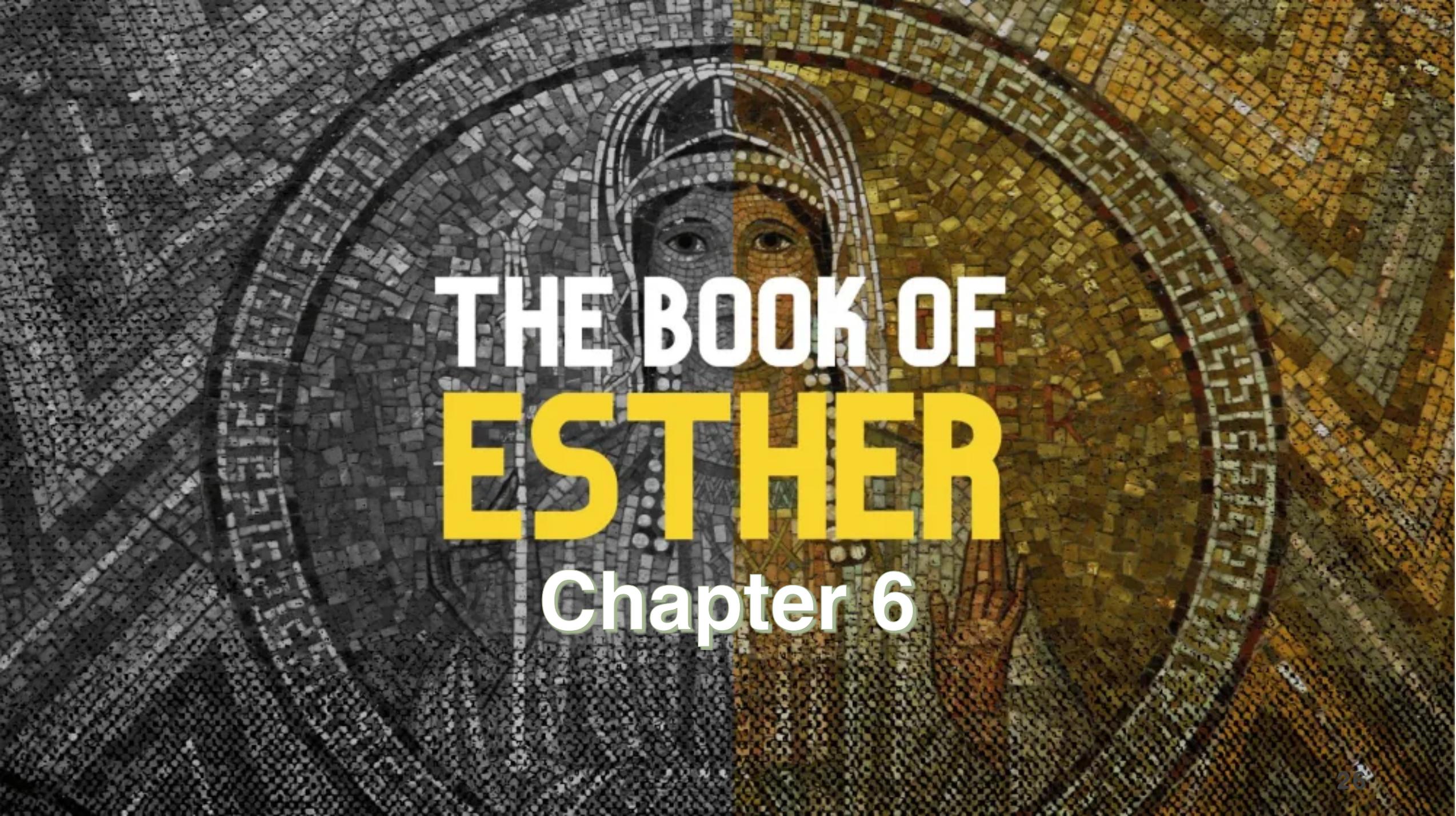


Profiles in Character from

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

Four threads of advice:

- 1) When preparing for an unprecedented event, wait on the Lord before getting involved.
- 2) When dealing with an unpredictable person, count on the Lord to open the doors.
- 3) When working through an unpleasant situation, trust the Lord for enduring patience.
- 4) When standing against an unprincipled enemy, asked the Lord for invincible courage.

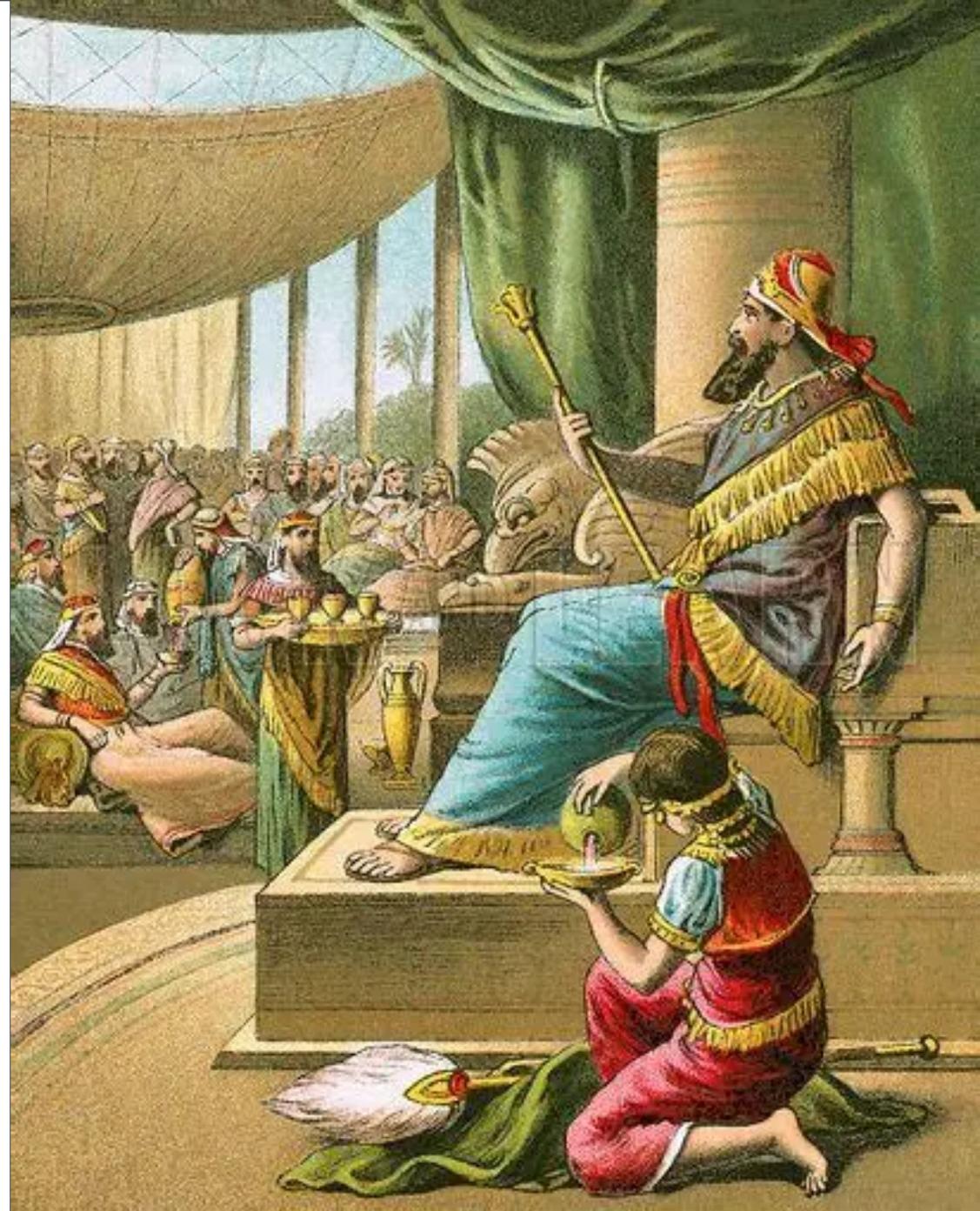


**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapter 6

Mordecai Honored

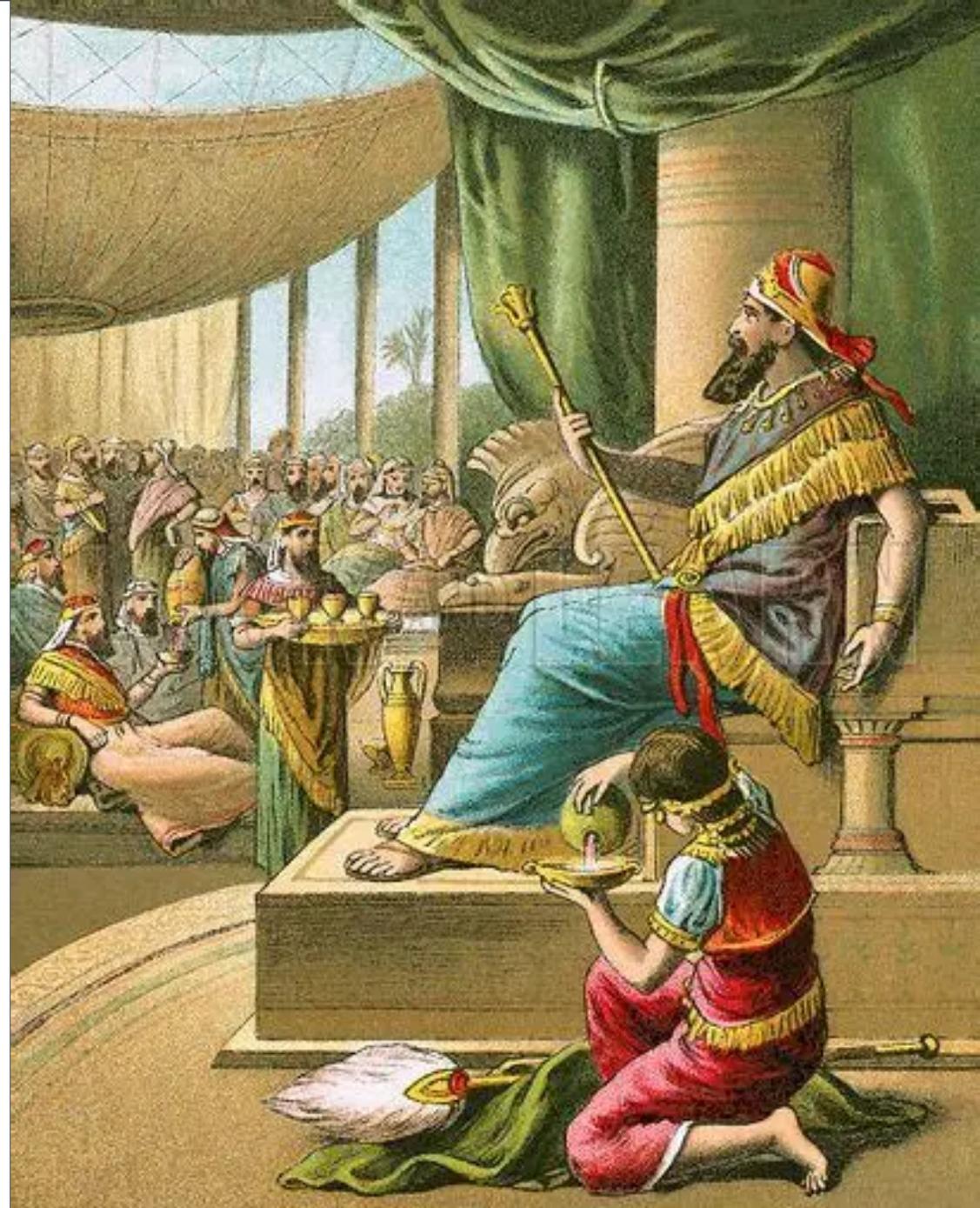
¹That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. ²It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.



3“What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?” the king asked.

“Nothing has been done for him,” his attendants answered.

4The king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him.



**⁵His attendants answered,
“Haman is standing in the court.”**

“Bring him in,” the king ordered.

**⁶When Haman entered, the king
asked him, “What should be
done for the man the king
delights to honor?”**



Now Haman thought to himself, “Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?” ⁷So he answered the king, “For the man the king delights to honor, ⁸have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head.



Haman's Confession
From an Original Picture in the Collection of John M. Woodcock Esq.
Engraved by G. Kneller for the Trustees of the British Museum

9Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'"



10“Go at once,” the king commanded Haman. “Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king’s gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended.”



¹¹So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!”

¹²Afterward Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, ¹³and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him.



Haman and Mordechai 1884
Paul Alexander Alfred Leroy

His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, “Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!” ¹⁴While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.





**KEEP
CALM
AND
START
DIGGING!**

*in
this
chapter*

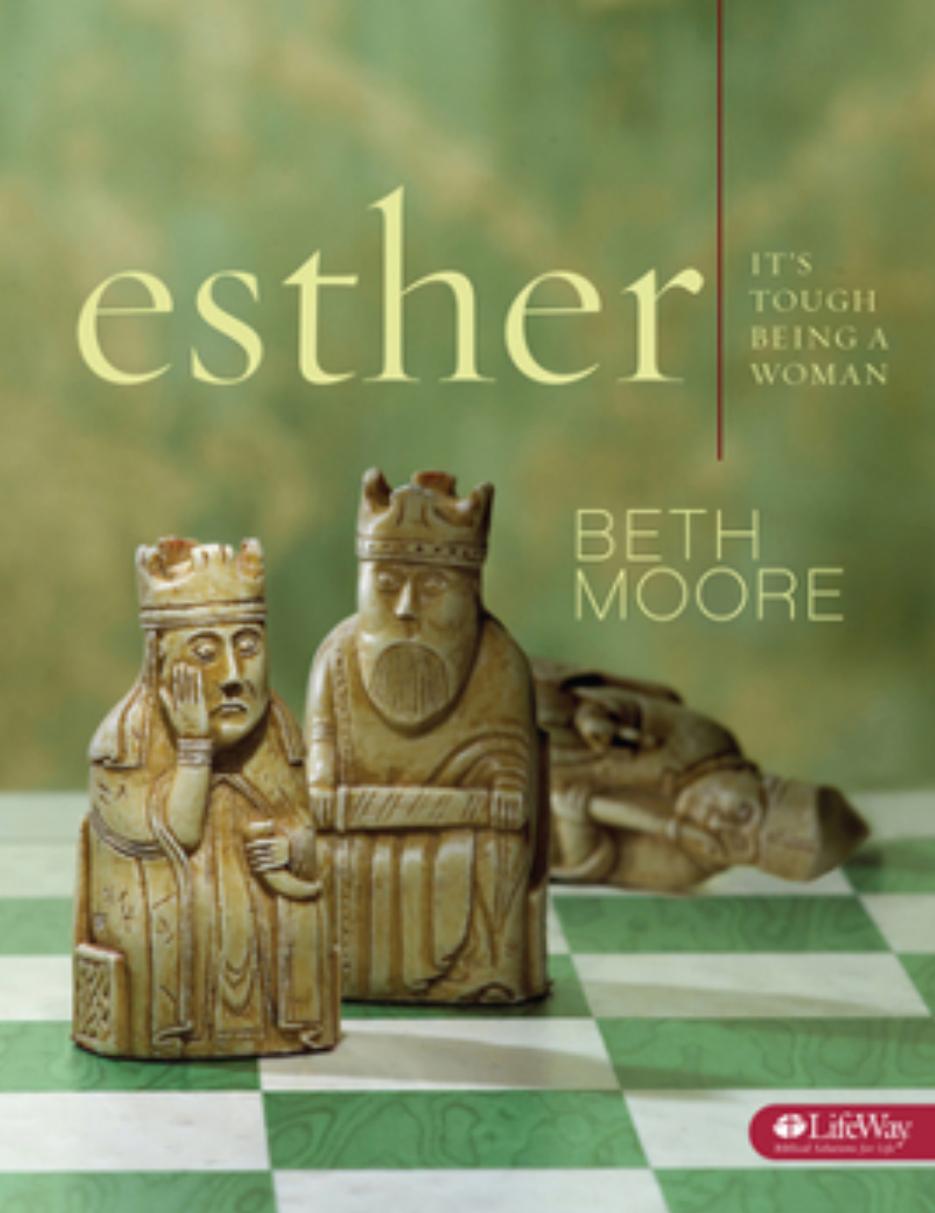


**There is a common phrase heard
in Christian circles:**

God works in mysterious ways

Do you believe this is true?





Sometimes Christ walks through our crisis dressed in the best disguise of all: ordinary events. He tucks a miracle in the fold of his robe and sweeps in and out unnoticed. Only in retrospect do we realize that a divine visitation graced our cold, crude winter and the resurrection of spring is on its way.

(based from Esther 4:1-3)

THE NIV

ESTHER

APPLICATION COMMENTARY

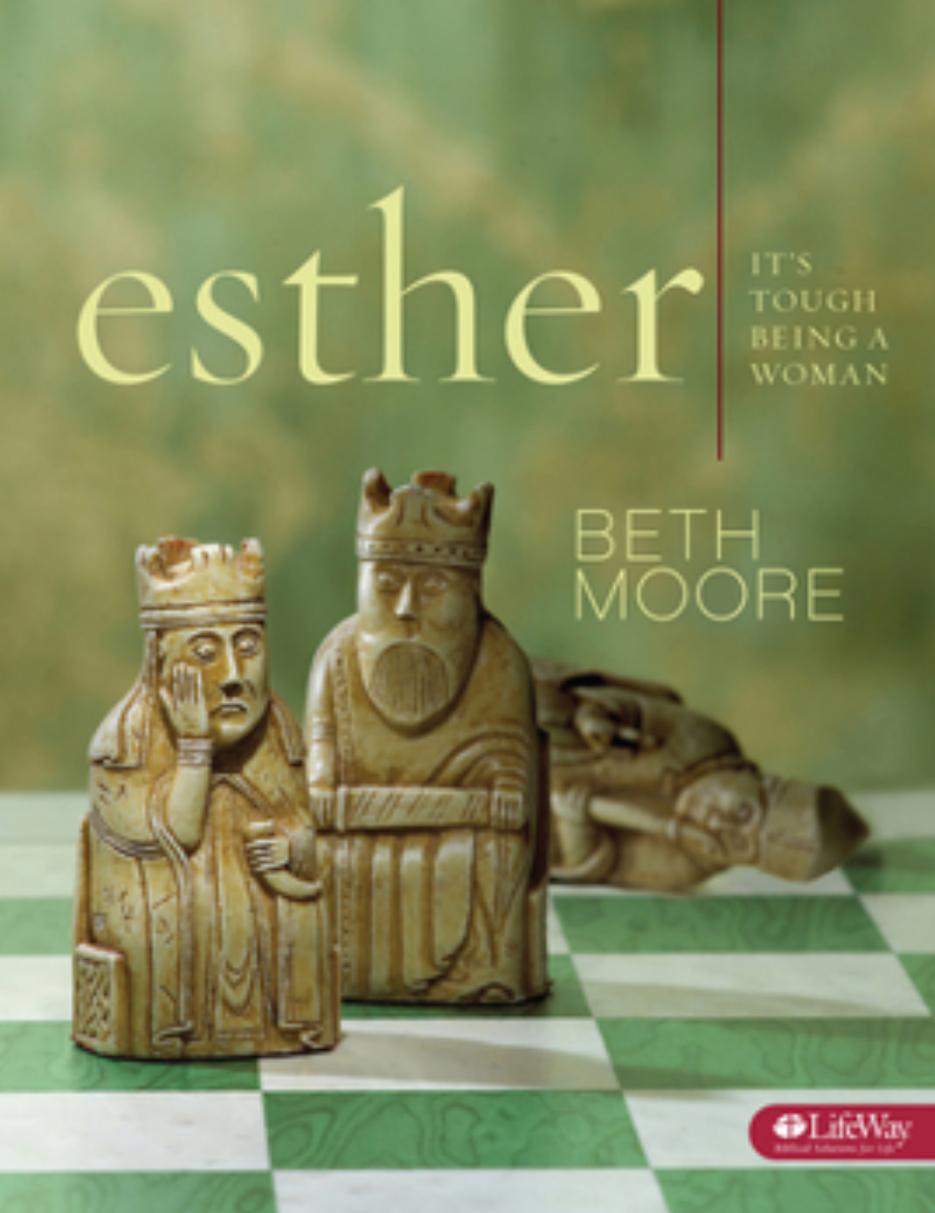


From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

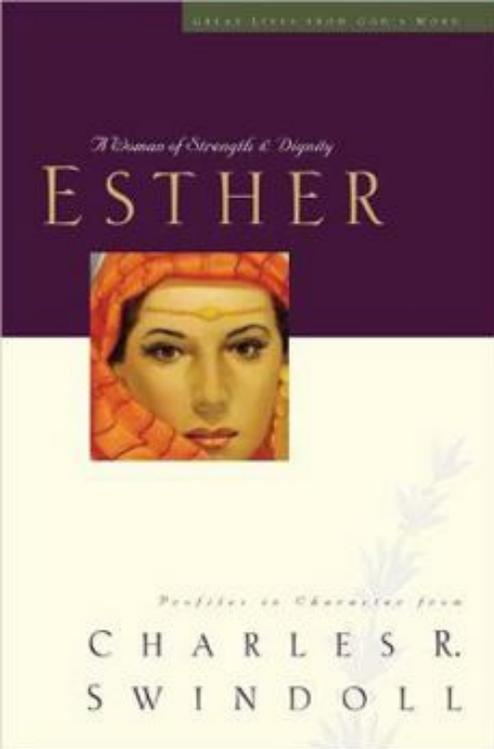
Previously in Israel's history, God had used mighty miracles to deliver his people and fulfill his promises. In the story of Esther God was using the ordinary events of life to realize his covenant promises to his people.

Is it not true that God has worked in your own life often through events that were unexpected and seemed insignificant at the time?



I can't describe how I long to hear the audible sound of God's voice. Never once have I heard with my physical ears God's voice calling, “Beth! Beth!” but I’ve heard a summons many times in my heart. Until I see Him face-to-face, few things are dearer to me than the invisible but unmistakable tug on my heartstrings to awaken and come meet with Him.

(based from Esther 4:1-3)



We have seen 4 facets of our lesson's principle: Things are not always as they seem.

- 1. When all seems lost, it isn't.**
- 2. When no one seems to notice, God does.**
- 3. When everything seems great for our enemies, it's not.**
- 4. When nothing seems just, it is.**

Esther & Ruth

REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

IAIN M. DUGUID

In the book like Esther, where God's name is never mentioned and the characters in the story (including his own people) do their best to ignore his existence, he refuses to be written out of the script. Between the lines and between the scenes, out of focus and incognito, the Lord continued to work to accomplish all this holy will.